

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to services across a computer network, comprising the step of:
generating an access request, said access request including a network device description and a plurality of service requests indicative of computer services for which the network device requests provisioning;
wherein the device description includes one or more of a device vendor, device type, device version and physical location; and
forwarding said access request for authentication and authorization.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which the access request is a RADIUS packet, the service requests being defined by information contained within Vendor-Specific Attribute (VSA) blocks in the said packet.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 in which each said block contains a device-type identifier and a service-request identifier.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 in which the packet is a RADIUS-compliant authentication request packet.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which the service requests include a request for a particular service level.
7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which a policy is applied to the access request to determine whether access will be allowed, and if so for what services.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which a network resources are provisioned in dependence upon the access request.
9. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which the steps of receiving and applying are performed by an access-control server or an Authentication, Authorization and Audit (AAA) server.
10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9 in which the access-control server uses the access request to select among multiple services that are specified for a particular device.
11. (Currently Amended) A network device arranged to provide access to services across a computer network, comprising:
means for generating an access request, said access request including a network device description and a plurality of service requests indicative of computer services for which the network device requests provisioning;
wherein the device description includes one or more of a device vendor, device type, device version and physical location; and
means for forwarding said access request for authentication and authorization.
12. (Original) A network device according to Claim 11 including means to generate RADIUS-compliant packets, the service requests being defined by information contained within Vendor-Specific Attribute (VSA) blocks in this said packet.
13. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
a network interface capable of being coupled to a computer network and for sending to the network access requests, ~~and~~ a processor and a computer-readable storage medium having one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed, cause the processor to perform the steps of:
generating an access request for forwarding via the network interface, said access request including a network device description and a plurality of service requests

indicative of computer services for which the network device requests provisioning;
wherein the device description includes one or more of a device vendor, device type, device version and physical location; and
forwarding said access request for authentication and authorization.[]]

14. (Original) A network device according to Claim 13 in which the access request is received as a RADIUS packet, the service requests being defined by information contained within Vendor-Specific Attribute (VSA) blocks in this said packet.
15. (Original) A network device according to Claim 14 in which each said block contains a device-type identifier and a service-request identifier.
16. (Original) A network device according to Claim 14 in which the packet is a RADIUS-compliant authentication request packet.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Original) A network device according to Claim 13 in which the service requests include a request for a particular service level.
19. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising
an access-control server for controlling access to resources on the network when requested by network devices, the access-control server being arranged:
 - (a) to receive an access request from a network device, said access request including a network device description and a plurality of service requests indicative of computer services for which the network device requests provisioning;
wherein the device description includes one or more of a device vendor, device type, device version and physical location; and

(b) to apply a policy to the access request to determine whether access will be allowed, and if so for what services.

20. (Original) A computer system according to Claim 19 in which the access control server instructs the provisioning of network resources in dependence upon the access request.
21. (Original) A computer system according to Claim 19 in which the access-control server is an Authentication, Authorization and Audit (AAA) server.
22. (Original) A computer system according to Claim 19 in which the access-control server uses the access request to select among multiple services that are specified for a particular device.
23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~carrying~~ storing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes said processor or processors to perform the steps of:
generating an access request for access to resources on a computer network, said access request including a network device description and a plurality of service requests indicative of computer services for which the network device requests provisioning;
wherein the device description includes one or more of a device vendor, device type, device version and physical location; and
forwarding said access request for authentication and authorization.[[·]]
24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 23 further including instructions for generating a RADIUS packet, the service requests being defined by information contained within Vendor-Specific Attribute (VSA) blocks in said packet.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 24 further including instructions for creating within each said block a device-type identifier and a service-request identifier.
26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 24 in which the generated packet is a RADIUS-compliant authentication request packet.
27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 23, in which the device description includes one or more of device vendor, device type, device version, physical location.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 23, in which service requests include a request for a particular service level.
29. (Original) A network device as claimed in claim 11 or claim 13 comprising a network access device which controls end-user device access to a network, and which requests services on behalf of one or more said end-user devices.
30. (Original) A network device as claimed in claim 11 or claim 13 in which said device requests services for its own use.